



Arlington Council on Aging

Agenda

Date: Thursday February 18, 2021 Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom, following the rules set forth by the Governor's Executive Order on Remote Participation. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Please call 781-316-3401 or e-mail KShah@town.arlington.ma.us for the link to join the virtual meeting which can be accessed by computer with internet access or by telephone for audio access only.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

Michael Quinn, Chair

Marge Vanderhill, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order
 - a. Welcome Sheila Connerney and Laura Liscio
2. Citizen's Open Forum
3. Minutes of the January, 2021 meeting for approval
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Report of the Chair
6. Minuteman Senior Services Report: Marge Vanderhill
7. ASA Liaison Report
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Other Community Announcements
11. Adjourn - **Next meeting: March 18, 2021**

Executive Director's Report

Kristine Shah

I. Updates on Programs/Services

- i. As of February 11, 208 75+ year olds have received their first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine at our town run clinic. COA Staff have been working additional hours to reach out and schedule appointments for these clinics over the phone. We are working in conjunction with our 2 social workers and using an online google form that we fill out for interested residents who call us. As of February 11, about 400 names remain on our list of interested 75+ year old Arlington residents. As of February 11, the Health Department has been receiving an allotment of 100 vaccines per week for Arlington residents and we are hoping that this increases as the vaccine roll out progresses. The COA has been handling 200+ phone calls per day from residents regarding COVID-19 vaccine. Very few 75+ year olds who are calling are able to access and maneuver the Mass Vaccination sites (Fenway, Gillette, etc.) but some are able to secure appointments through their primary care physicians. Clinics will also be run at each Senior Housing building in Arlington once Phase 2, Group 2 is announced.
- ii. 40 Chromebooks and 8 hot spots have been distributed to older adults in town as a part of our Technology Lending Library program. We have applied for an additional \$5,000 grant from Mount Auburn Hospital to fund an additional 20 hot spots for the remaining 20 Chromebooks that we have left to distribute.
- iii. Virtual programs continue to be well attended and are expanding. An 8 week "Brain and Balance" class has over 50 registered attendees, Muscle Strengthening class has doubled in size to almost 60 attendees and we have upcoming virtual talks scheduled in March with District Attorney Marian Ryan, An Irish Step Dancing Show for St. Patrick's Day, and a monthly Heart Health/Vaccine talk with a Mount Auburn physician.
- iv. We held our Valentine Grab & Go Event at Brightview on February 11. 25 older adults drove through a festive driveway to pick up a catered lunch and valentine made by Thompson School students.
- v. Our Snow Removal program has been active this winter and so far over 60 Arlington students have participated.
- vi. We received 18 applications for our annual Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief program this year. The committee will be meeting in late March to decide awards. Our Senior Property Tax Work off program is full with 20 participants. The Harry Barber rental assistance program is also full with 5 participants.
- vii. Our Dementia Friendly Sub Committee met with MCOA staff Patty Sullivan and Susan McNulty in late January to discuss steps in certifying Arlington as a Dementia Friendly town. Our next step is for the sub-committee along with any other board members or COA staff interested to attend a Dementia Friends Training. After that training we will add to our sub-committee to include representatives from other areas of Arlington including Library, DPW, Town Hall departments, transportation, etc. We can then write a combined Age Friendly/Dementia Friendly action plan which will be due in June.
- viii. I will be reaching out to our Membership Sub-Committee to schedule a board orientation for Sheila and Laura.

b. Financial Updates

i. Grant Application Updates

1. \$20,000 from MAPC for Taxi/Livery transportation - *awaiting answer*
2. \$11,800 from Lahey/BIDMC Health for Transportation- *received*
3. \$5,000 from Mount Auburn for Hot Spot Monthly Fees- *received*
4. \$4,000 from Mass Service Alliance for volunteer support- *awaiting answer*
5. CDBG FY22 grant applications: Transportation Program (\$31,540), Volunteer Coordinator Position (\$52,922) and Adult Day Health scholarships (\$6,000). – *awaiting answers*
6. \$5,000 from I’m Still Here Foundation for Dementia Friendly Virtual Exercise Classes- *awaiting answer*

ii. Capital Campaign

1. We are moving forward with a spring mailing to update Arlington Residents on the construction progress at the center and invite them to participate again by supporting the Capital Campaign (\$151,000 raised to date).
2. The renovation is expected to be finished in June 2021.